



**MEETING MINUTES**

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Thursday, January 4, 2007, 9:00 AM

District Headquarters - B-1 Auditorium

3301 Gun Club Road

West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Members and Alternates Present:

**Kelvin Baker**  
**Bevin Beaudet**  
**David Burr**  
**Michael Collins**  
**Joan Davis**  
**Rebecca Garvoille**  
**James Harvey**  
**James Humble**  
**Thomas Kenny**  
**David Lithgow**  
**Charles Pattison**  
**Jeff Schmidt**  
**Raymond Smith**  
**Jody Thomas**  
**Joseph Walsh**  
**Howard Wegis**  
**Ed Wright**

**Thomas Bausch**  
**Douglas Bournique**  
**Al Calloway**  
**Harry Cronin**  
**Gene Duncan**  
**Beverly Grady**  
**Patrick Hayes**  
**Tom Jones**  
**Beth Lewis**  
**Barbara Miedema**  
**Terrence Rock Salt**  
**Ray Scott**  
**Craig Tepper**  
**Bausch Thomas**  
**Libbey Webb**  
**Samantha Whitcraft**  
**Douglas Yoder**

**1. Welcome and Introductions - Michael Collins, Chair**

5m

Mike Collins welcomed everyone and announced the new appointees Tom Pellán as DCA Secretary and Mike Sole as DEP Secretary.

**2. Member Issues**

30m

None

**3. ACTION ITEM:** Naples Bay SWIM Plan, Carla Palmer, Director, Stormwater Mgt. Div., SFWMD

15p 30d

Carla Palmer presented on the Naples Bay SWIM Plan.

Questions and Answers:

Q: Is land acquisition included in the Budget?

A: Will get back to you, it is based on BCB and Collier County Budget.

Q: The \$6.7 M is Basin Board millage. Is the Basin Board allowed to buy land for other use than a canal? The \$81 M over 5 year, is that all planning money?

A: It is project money

Q: Who is the entity responsible for SWIM?

A: SFWMD is the entity

Q: Did the Basin Board vote to support the SWIM Plan?

A: Yes, at last meeting.

Chair Collins - Prior to this there was no coordination. The SWIM Plan provides the coordination.

Patrick Hayes - The SWIM Plan is critical. I would have liked more time to review the plan. I feel totally unqualified to make a recommendation.

Chair Collins - Do you have any major objections to any of the concepts?

James Harvey - We would have liked more time to read the plan, but it is really the BCB Board millage and their money.

Q: How did we come up with the data that the water is too fresh? Do we have historical data?

A: It was just an example, but the scientific study has been done on oysters and submerged aquatic vegetation and the impact freshwater had on them.

Chair Collins - It is not uncommon to find freshwater fish on the fringes of a lot of Florida water bodies. The SWIM plan provides retention for some of this freshwater.

Tom Jones - I think with Collier County footing most of the money for the SWIM plans the District is getting a great deal. It will be interesting to compare with other SWIM plan how the money was allocated.

Chair Collins - From the Golden Glades and Picayune Strand project overview we have come from \$55 M to \$400 M and we are picking up the tab for the whole amount. We will be hearing from Collier County on a regular basis for additional help.

Ray Smith - I have heard of freshwater lost to tide for a long time and in Collier County we have a plan to redirect this and turn the water back to recharge the aquifer.

Q: What measures is Collier County taking to direct development to help with the plan?

Chip Merriam - Most of the County is under Federal or State ownership, development got ahead in some of the rural areas and this will help put some of the pieces together.

Action Item

Chair Collins - We will move forward and present to the Governing Board for approval at our next meeting.

4. Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update - John Mulliken, Dir., Planning Div., Water Supply Dept., SFWMD

15p 15d

John Mulliken presented Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan Update.

Questions and Answers:

James Harvey - We might need a SWIM process also for water supply plans. On Chart 1 New water needed 636 mgd and in Chart 2 621 mgd. Is this new water also?

John Mulliken - These are average daily number. We will be presenting both numbers in the plan, dry season numbers are higher.

James Harvey - Why are we stressing the Floridan? Next meeting I would like to understand where the 2025 population demands are coming from.

John Mulliken - We were not going thru each utility, but is you look at the details we have distributed the population growth as evenly as possible.

James Harvey - A series of map showing now and 2025 will clarify a lot of the questions. We should have a study of the aquifer before we keep exploiting it. More cooperative money should be spent here.

Chair Collins - They will be more Governing Board input regarding this subject.

Rock Salt - How are you approaching the risk of over exploiting the aquifer?

John Mulliken - We approach it thru our regulatory process.

Chair Collins - We also have feasibility studies regarding this.

Patrick Hayes - I am very concern with the over exploitation of the Floridan. We are going to need new water for all projects (MFLs, Restoration, Reservations) and I don't see any of these on this plan.

John Mulliken - The Regional availability water rule doesn't provide new water but adds a layer of protection. We are looking to CERP and Acceler8 for new water availability.

Doug Yoder - We are having a diversified approach to our needs not just the aquifer. We would like the District to look at the overall long picture not just who presents their application first.

Chip Merriam - We will be having a policy presentation to the Governing Board regarding this new water that will becoming available and how do we distribute it.

Rock Salt - I don't think the District has exploited the aquifer but the issue is how do we not waste so much water on drainage.

Doug Bournique - We should start thinking about building homes that are self sufficient. The District needs to meet with home builders and have them understand this.

Ray Scott - The 300 mgd coming from this uncertain source really concerns me. These regional water supply plans need to deal with available water supply sources. Beside the BEBR, are we working with any other population growth reports? Are they DCA approved?

John Mulliken - In Broward County they have created their own population projection model and is DCA approved. We have ongoing communications with the local government for updating our reports.

James Humble - How do you account for the population explosion in Dade County that comes from other countries?

John Mulliken - The long term studies picks up the bumps/spike on the population growth but you can not account for every single event. That is why the need to update the plans every five years.

Chair Collins - Bottom line we can't predict the wild cards

5. Update: Regional Water Availability Rule - Chip Merriam, Dep. Exec. Director, Water Resources; Scott Burns, Dir., Policy Implementation, Water Supply Dept.; and Cecile Piverotto, Sr. Specialist Attorney, Office of Counsel, SFWMD.

30p 30d

Chip Merriam presented on the Regional Availability Rule

Questions and Answers:

Ray Scott - Will the Joint Administration review this rule and when? How about DEP? Any third party intervention?

Cecile Piverotto - JAPC can file an objection to the rule and if the Agency doesn't respond appropriately it can be appealed to the Commission.

Chair Collins - We have been working with DEP from the beginning and they are on-board with all the content. We will be sending it to the JAPC and their members to do briefings on this rule.

Cecile Piverotto - If a third party thinks the rule is not consistent with State water policies, under Chapter 373 the rule can be challenged and taken to the Governor's Cabinet.

Rock Salt - The new Draft Guide Memoranda will be a tool that will help with the Restoration.

Chair Collins - This guide will capture what we have been already doing for the last 6-8 years.

Beverly Grady - Do we have real numbers of what the demands will be for the system? We should have numbers the same as we have on the water supply plan.

Chair Collins - This policy is only a tool. We will not be able to buy the lands necessary for storage, and we need ASR to be part of the puzzle.

Chip Merriam If there is additional water this Governing Board has the right to decide how that water is going to be used. The real numbers are that these utilities need 340 mgd day. This rule will provide for protection of these new water sources for availability and any excess water not for consumption will then be used for restoration.

Rock Salt I am of the believe that there is a lot of water and the issue is how we manage it during the wet cycle and the dry cycles.

Bevin Beaudet We are looking forward to the final draft of the rule. As long as the district continues with their statutory responsibilities of developing alternate water supply.

Samantha Whitcraft How does this relate to the C111 canal? What are the benefits to Florida Bay?

Chair Collins This rule has nothing to do with restoration projects.

Chip Merriam As you create these projects and there is excess of water available we will take it to the Governing Board for allocation and distribution past the natural systems. This is a complete different set of reservations. (2:30 time)

Public Comment:

Mike Bailey - We appreciate the Districts work on this rule and allowing us to participate in developing the proper language for this rule.

Chair Collins Thank you for your help and now it will be a good time to sit down with Chip Merriam and work on some of the language issues so that it offers more flexibility.

6. Central Florida Coordination Area Update - Keith Smith, Dep. Director, Water Supply Department - SFWMD

15p/15d

Keith Smith presented on the Central Coordination Area Update.

Newton Cook

Byro Maharrey

7. Public Comment

10m

Newton Cook

Byro Maharrey

8. Update: Long Term Plan Projects Completed by 12/31/06, Deb Drum, Dir., Stormwater Treatment Area Management Div., SFWMD

10p 10d

Tracey Piccone presented on the Long Term Plan Projects completed by 12/31/06.

Gene Duncan complemented the District and the CORP on the completed projects. It is nice to see water statarting to flow into the Park.

9. Update: Status of Temporary Forward Pumps - David Unsell, Dir., Lake Okeechobee Div., SFWMD  
10p 10d  
David Unsell presented on the Status of the Forward Pumps. There was a question regrading the west side of the Lake and the lack of forward pumps. We are working on the plumbing before forward pumps can be installed on the west side and north side of the Lake.
10. WRAC Meetings - Format and Travel Issues - Discussion: Mike Collins, Rick Smith and Members  
10m
11. Public Comment  
10m
12. Adjourn: 1:30 p.m.